

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

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R 171600Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3518

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUACHOTT

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS ALGIERS 3607

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOD, PFOR, AG, MO, SS

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: SECOND DELEGATION OF SAHRAOUI NOTABLES
ARRIVES

1. IN CONTINUING STRUGGLE WITH MOROCCANS FOR SAHRAOUI HEARTS AND MINDS, GOA BROUGHT SECOND DELEGATION OF SAHARA NOTABLES TO ALGIERS DECEMBER 16. FIRST GROUP VISITED HERE DECEMBER 6 (ALGIERS 3532). LATEST DELEGATION NUMBERED 85 AND INCLUDED 17 MEMBERS OF SAHARAN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY (JEMAA) AS WELL AS ONE MEMBER OF SPANISH CORTES AND THREE POLISARIO REPS. ALGERIANS CLAIM JEMAA HAS BEEN DISSOLVED AND REPLACED BY NATIONAL PROVISIONAL COUNCIL. COUNCIL PRESIDENT, MHEMED OULD ZIOU, WAS ON HAND TO GREET GROUP ALONG WITH NATIONAL POLICE DIRGEN AND COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MEMBER AHMED DRAIA AND OTHER GOA AND POLISARIO LEADERS. BOUMEDIENE RECEIVED NOTABLES AND MEDIA MADE MUCH OF THEIR ACCOUNTS OF MOROCCAN ATROCITIES IN SAHARA AND THEIR PROFESSIONS OF LOYALTY TO POLISARIO'S CAUSE.

2. FROM TELEVISION COVERAGE OF EVENT, THIS DELEGATION, LIKE ITS PREDECESSOR, APPEARED TO BE MADE UP OF AUTHENTIC TRIBAL NOTABLES. ONE MAN WAS SUFFICIENTLY UNFAMILIAR WITH ALGIERS SCENE THAT, AT PRESENTATION CEREMONY IN PRESIDENCY, HE GREETED AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN IN ROBE AND TURBAN AND THEN WAS ON POINT OF BRUSHING BY WESTERN-DRESSED BOUMEDIENE,
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APPARENTLY ASSUMING THAT LATTER DID NOT MERIT HIS ATTENTION.

HIS ERROR WAS EVIDENTLY EXPLAINED TO HIM FOR HE TURNED BACK AND SHOOK PRESIDENT'S HAND. SPEECHES WHICH NOTABLES MADE BEFORE TV CAMERAS OBVIOUSLY UNREHEARSED ALTHOUGH EACH MAN MADE APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO LOADED QUESTIONS ABOUT POLISARIO RESISTANCE, MOROCCAN-SPANISH COLLUSION ETC.

3. COMMENT: LATEST ARRIVALS BRING ALGERIAN COUNT OF NUMBER OF JEMAA MEMBERS WHO HAVE RALLIED TO POLISARIO TO 74 OUT OF BODY'S ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP OF 104. MHEMED OULD ZIOU'S ACCESSION TO PRESIDENCY OF NATIONAL PROVISIONAL COUNCIL HAS NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE BEEN ANNOUNCED PREVIOUSLY AND INDICATES THAT THIS BODY'S ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY CONTINUING.PARKER

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